

## Doings of Societies.

The 18th regular quarterly meeting of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society was held on November 18, 1905, at the residence of E. M. Ehrhorn, 2524 Filbert Street, San Francisco. President Fuchs in the chair. Fifteen members were present.

Prof. J. J. Rivers reported the taking of *Eudamus proteus* at Santa Monica, California.

Prof. J. M. Aldrich gave an interesting talk on Diptera.

Mr. J. G. Grundel reported a trip to the Santa Lucia Mts., in San Luis Obispo Co. He found that the Catocalæ about willows varied greatly in color and selected spots resembling their coloration; he wondered whether they were conscious of their color.

Mr. Fuchs determined some Coleoptera taken by Mr. Grundel, namely: *Cychrus convergens* var., *Cicindela oregona*, and *Pterostichus castaneipes*. He exhibited some Sesiidæ bred from blackberry, peach and wild cherry, and a species of *Satyrus* from San Luis Obispo County, a *Hepialus* sp., and Catocalæ from Alma, Santa Clara County.

Miss Julia Wright a box of exotic Coleoptera from Ceylon.

Prof. J. M. Aldrich a *Calotarsa* n. sp. from near Palo Alto, California.

The 19th regular quarterly meeting of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society was held at the Café Odeon, February 17th, 1906, No. 8 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco. President Fuchs in the chair. Twelve members were present.

Prof. J. M. Aldrich gave an interesting talk on collecting and mounting Diptera. He advised the use of the black Klaeger pins, especially size No. 1, also No. 2 for the larger specimens, too large pins should not be used. The pin should be passed through the thorax at centre or to one side, according to the value of the median bristles in classification. The cyanide bottle should always be kept dry within, and specimens should be collected singly and closely watched at the time for the purpose of learning their habits.

Dr. E. C. Van Dyke read two papers that may be epito-

mized as follows: He first dealt with the genus *Leptura*, particular reference being made to the species found in North America. He spoke of the fact that this, a Palæartic and Nearctic genus of about 175 species, was represented in this country by about 75 species, several being undescribed, or about three times the number found in Europe.

Two exceptions to the general northern distribution mentioned were the two species from the highlands of Central Mexico. Mention was then made of the distribution of various groups of these and the relationship that the various members bore to each other. A careful study of the species he said brought out many interesting facts, one being that the Rocky Mountains alone supported no well-marked species—*Leptura nigrolineata* being considered at most a very weak one, though they did harbor several rather interesting varieties. The Sierras, the humid coast belt of the Pacific and the Alleghanies, each claimed one or more very distinct species. The Doctor considered that *L. quadrillum* was closely related to *L. veratrix*, and that *cubitalis* was not a *Leptura* at all but an *Acmæops* and closely related to *basalis*.

Later on in the evening he went over the species, and with the aid of the specimens from his collection and a number loaned by Mr. Fuchs to make the series more complete, pointed out many peculiarities. Of 47 West Coast species known to him, all but three were shown.

In the second paper an effort was made to show wherein the fauna of the West Coast more closely resembled that of Europe and North Asia, than did that to the east of the Rocky Mts. Mention was made of the statement made many years ago by Prof. Asa Gray, that the flora of Eastern North America as a whole was more closely related to that of the Japano-Manchurian region than was that of the west coast.

The insect fauna of the same regions was also found to bear a similar relationship. The reason the Doctor gave for this, was that the parts of the flora and fauna, which bore this close relationship, were as a rule restricted to low levels, where there was both plenty of sun and moisture. In past geological ages there was at northern latitudes a great area of comparatively low land which made it possible for both these areas

to gain their species from the same source. The West Coast could not get this fauna, because at that period it was barricaded at the north by great highlands, or else densely forested and quite cool lowlands, districts which the more sun-loving species would not penetrate. The mountains and cool-loving species of the Eastern Continent would here, however, find a congenial home, and as much as the mountain systems of the two Continents there came in close touch with each other, it was a simple matter that there should result a settlement of both regions with a related fauna. This is what no doubt occurred and it is with regard to this fauna—the fauna of the mountains and the cool lowlands, that the West Coast is more closely related to the Palæarctic than is that of the eastern part of this country.

In order to bring out this point the more forcibly, he gave the distribution of all the known species of certain genera of the Silphidæ, the list including the following: *Necrophilus*, *Hadrame*, *Pelates*, *Pteroloma*, *Agyrtes*, *Sphærites* (one of the Nitidulidæ, according to Ganglbauer), *Lyrosoma*, *Pinodytes*, *Platycholeus*. Later on, a box containing all of the American species of this group with the exception of *Pinodytes hamiltoni* was shown, a new species of *Pteroloma* among the number.

Dr. F. E. Blaisdell stated that considerable time had been spent on the Gyrinidæ, and that they needed revision. He also stated that he had taken a large series of *Gyrinus parvus* at San Diego, California, a species heretofore not credited to the State, but from Texas.

Mr. F. W. Nunenmacher stated that he had for exhibition a box of *Hyperaspis* arranged according to Casey's classification. *H. 4-oculata* appears as the western form of *undulata*.

Mr. Chas. Fuchs read a paper on a trip to the Fort Tejon region.

Mr. Nunenmacher exhibited two new species of *Hyperaspis*, and a series of *H. dissoluta* Cr. as an extreme form of *undulata*.

Dr. Van Dyke the Lepturæ of the U. S. illustrating distributional areas.

Miss Julia Wright a box of exotic Coleoptera.

Dr. Blaisdell a box of Californian Gyrinidæ.

F. E. BLAISDELL, M.D., *Secretary*.